



Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Notes

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

1:30 pm, June 7, 2018

Northwest Kansas GMD #4, 1290 W. 4th, Colby, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Sid Metcalf (Chair)	Oberlin, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	No
Mike Schultz (Vice-Chair)	Brewster, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Brian Baalman	Menlo, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Shannon Kenyon	Colby, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Gary Fisher	Atwood, KS	Local Government	2021	No
Ken McCarty	Rexford, KS	Agriculture Industry	2019	No
Tyson McGreer	Colby, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Ian de Waal	Saint Francis, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Sue Evans	Colby, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Vacant		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	
Vacant		Agriculture 2	2021	

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Kelly Steward	KDA-DWR
Steven Walters	KDA-DWR
J.B. McClure	Public
Richard Rockel	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:40pm by Mike Schultz. A quorum was not present; three of the nine committee members were present. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Mike Schultz requested that an agenda item be added to discuss chemical usage within the region. Sue Evans motioned to approve the modified agenda, Shannon Kenyon seconded, quorum not present.

Review & Approval of March 7, 2018 Meeting Notes

Shannon Kenyon moved to approve meeting minutes, Sue Evans seconded, quorum not present for approval.

Update on GMD No. 4 District Wide LEMA

Shannon Kenyon gave an update on the LEMA process and the challenge filed by a group referring to themselves as the "Interveners". On April 13, 2018 the Chief Engineer issued an Order of Designation for the LEMA. On April 29, 2018 the Interveners submitted a petition for Administrative Review. On May 18, 2018, an order declining the petition for Administrative Review was issued by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Kenyon stated that the Interveners had the opportunity to take their appeal to district court.

Membership: Sid Metcalf (Chair), Oberlin, KS; Mike Schultz (Vice-Chair), Brewster, KS; Brian Baalman, Menlo, KS; Shannon Kenyon, Colby, KS; Gary Fisher, Atwood, KS; Ken McCarty, Rexford, KS; Tyson McGreer, Colby, KS; Adriaan De Waal, St. Francis, KS; Sue Evans, Colby, KS
KWO Planner: Richard Rockel, 785-296-3185; richard.rockel@kwo.ks.gov

Mrs. Kenyon stated that the number of phone calls to the Groundwater Management District No. 4 (GMD4) office had increased with water right holders calling and asking about their water quantity under the LEMA plan. Mrs. Kenyon described some of the outreach that has been carried out by the GMD4 to inform stakeholders, that six public meetings have been conducted thus far after issuance of Order of Designation, a tool was created to allow stakeholders to look up their allocations, and the Division of Water Resources sent letters to the address of record for all water right holders with new quantity allocation.

Mrs. Kenyon stated that several quantities were adjusted after meeting with stakeholders, who exercised their right under the LEMA order to provide additional information to the GMD4. It was stated that there are 41 individuals listed as Interveners, where there are thousands of water right stakeholders within the LEMA boundaries.

Chemical Usage within Upper Republican Region

Mike Schultz stated he would like to see a record on the volume and type of chemicals brought into the region and wanted to know where applicator usage records were kept. There was some discussion about what types of records the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would have on hand, specifically the pesticide applicator records.

Mr. Schultz had questions about the accuracy level of the data that may be recorded, citing applicators completing forms with assumptions and generalities. It was determined that the KDHE should be contacted to see what data they have available to share with the RAC.

State of the Resource (SOTR) Outreach Event Planning

Richard Rockel gave an update on the SOTR project, which included and updated presentation based on one put together by the Kansas RAC with an increased emphasis on pursuing funding through the Kansas Legislature to complete the RAC's goals. The SOTR resource document was reviewed, & it was noted that the colors should be changed on the LEMA map.

In regards to pursuing additional funding to support RAC goal implementation, Mike Schultz stated that it should be highlighted the amount of fees that Municipal water right owners pay when compared to Irrigation water right holders. An overview of the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Forces process and stakeholder interaction was given.

The RAC reviewed the region's goals as outlined in the SOTR document, no consensus on goal modifications or additional goals being needed. Mike Schultz posed the idea of a water quality oriented goal. Discussion on other water quality goals of other Regional Advisory Committees took place; the RAC requested that the water quality goals of some other RACs be provided to them to review.

For the Republican River Compact portion of the SOTR document, Kelly Stewart, Water Commissioner Division of Water Resources, stated that the states of Kansas and Colorado were coming to a new agreement on damages owed to Kansas from Colorado's noncompliance with the Compact. Mr. Stewart did not have specific details that could be shared with the RAC at this time.

Richard Rockel gave an update on the State's Water Education and Marketing ad campaign, and shared a presentation from Walz Tetrack; the presentation, which was originally given to the Kansas Water Authority on April 18, 2018. The ad campaign will be called "Kansas Runs on Water" and is expected to begin in late 2018. General discussion was had in regards to some of the example material included in the presentation.

Other Business

Agency Reports

KDA-DWR: Kelly Stewart stated that the LEMA was up and running, waiting for potential legal challenges. He also stated that the South Fork Republican Compact agreement was continuing to make progress.

KDWPT: Kevin gave an update on the South Fork Republican tree clearing project that has been underway. He stated that additional grant applications have been filed to expand the project and learn from the first phase of the project in regards to equipment selection and contractor use. It was stated that under the current agreement landowners are responsible for 25% of contractor costs.

Public Comments

J.B. McClure stated that he would like some background information on the Republican River Compact. Information was given by Kansas representatives Kelly Stewart, Steven Walters, and Richard Rockel.

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – None

Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority: August 22, 2018, Manhattan KS; RAC Chair or designee attend

Next RAC Meeting:

Adjourn

4pm